

xnv pest. So I must postpone the execution of the plan." Trie state of business was a pretext, for at the last moment Gasibetta shirked the interview. It could only have led to disappointment, for, according to Blowitz, Bismarck told Holstein that he would have made it a condition that the provinces should not be mentioned. The faithful 5puller₃ who detested the notion of a rapprochement, warned his beloved leader to be prudent, and the *pourparlers* were never resumed, though Gambetta continued his visits to Germany and to the end Bismarck desired to meet him. The French statesman persevered in the new path, and a common friend encouraged Lira to hope for a change when the Crown Prince should come to the throne. Some of his friends turned their backs on the lost leader, among them Mme Adam, who founded *La Nouvelle R&ue* in 1879 to preach the *revanche* and the need of a Russian alliance. "You follow your sentiments, I my reason/* he lesnarked to her in 1878 ; " let each of us go his own way/* The *revanche* was merely a means to an end, the recovery of the provinces, and he had come to believe that it might ultimately be secured without a war, perhaps by an alliance with England and Russia.

Gambetta continued to make speeches which suggested that another conflict was inevitable, and in Germany it was believed that his accession to power might be the signal for the attack. " Les grandes reparations," he declared in his celebrated speech at Cherbourg in 1880, " peuvent sortir du droit. We or our children can hope for them, for the future is open to us all. It has been said that we have a passionate cult for the army. It is not the spirit of war which animates this cult; it is the necessity, after seeing France fall so low, to raise her up so that she resumes her place in the world. If our hearts

beat, it is for
this goal, not for an ideal of blood; it is that
what is left of
France may remain entire; it is that we may
count on the
future. There is on earth an immanent justice
which comes at
its appointed time." Freycinet, to whom some of
the Am-
bassadors complained, assured them that the
speech was
pacific in intention; but the critics cried,
Gambetta, *c'estlagmrre*^
and Bismarck exclaimed, " Gambetta in power
would act on
the nerves like a man beating a drum in a sick-
room." A year
later, at Menilmontant, he made his pacific
attitude clear beyond
controversy. " France intends to win for herself
such power
and such prestige that in the end, by force of
patience, she will
receive the reward of wise and good conduct. If
she is vigilant